

## RUS Comments on Water Well Systems

Request for Comments  
Region Five Development Commission  
611 Iowa Ave NE  
Staples, MN 56479  
218-894-3233

We would like to submit the following comments on the potential Water Well System Grant

1. The grantees need a working knowledge of water systems but not necessarily be certified to inspect; the counties themselves inspect both before and after installation.
2. In the ISTS program matching of leveraged or matching funds was required. The counties choose to participate and did match funds. The water quality in Minnesota is important enough that leveraging funds, although difficult in some areas, should still be possible. We would say yes to giving a priority to areas that leverage.
3. 100% financing should be allowed with the borrower covering inspection and closing costs. Low income residents that will use this program will really need it. Reasonable payments could mean making a new well affordable. Four of our five counties have per capita income rates 33-44% below the state average.
4. Administrative and servicing fees should be kept to a minimum, certainly no more than 10% of the grant. Rural homeowners should have access to adequate, uncontaminated water with as little added burden as possible.
5. A Central Servicing Center would simplify the process.
6. Usually by obtaining a personal financial statement and credit report it is evident who is unable to procure financing from lending institutions.
7. Eligible: Poor quality, failing, or contaminated existing wells.  
Wells that the county determines must be moved  
Ineligible: New construction  
Income limits

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